



RANDY WEBER
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT, TEXAS

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Texas A&M AgriLife Research's Texas Gulf Coast Oyster Research project in Galveston County, Texas, in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Texas A&M AgriLife Research, located at 600 John Kimbrough Boulevard, Suite 512, 2142 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843. The funding would be used to develop a long-term breeding program to support the new and rapidly growing Texas oyster aquaculture industry. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because aquaculture is one of the fastest growing agricultural sectors globally and is expected to be the primary source of growth in seafood production in the future. In Texas, which has 367 miles of coastline, marine aquaculture has the potential to be the next frontier for agricultural production. To expand domestic production of seafood and relieve the pressure on vulnerable wild fisheries, the state of Texas in 2019 approved the development of a legal framework for aquaculture of oysters for the first time, presenting a considerable opportunity to expand the production of seafood in the state.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding is for activities consistent with, and supportive of, NOAA's mission and is aligned with one or more of the provided is for purposes described in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family

Sincerely,

RANDY K. WEBER
United States Representative